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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/544,565	04/06/2000	Yoshio Ozawa	Q58573	7434

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Sughrue Mion Zinn MacPeak & Seas
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue N W
Washington, DC 20037

EXAMINER

WORKU, NEGUSSIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2626

DATE MAILED: 02/17/2004

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/544,565

Applicant(s)

OZAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Negussie Worku

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 November 20003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 19 and 21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-17, 20 and 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 2-17, 20 and 22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashizume et al. (USP 5,592,258) in view of Enomoto (USP 6,324,345).

With respect to claim 2, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device (scanner shown in fig 1), comprising: a photo film (2 of fig 1) passageway for guiding and passing developed photo film, see (col.15, lines 40-44) ; a light source (light source 49 of fig 1), for illuminating an image in said photo film (2 of fig 1) positioned in said photo film passageway (from U1-U2 of fig 1, see col.15, lines 40-45); an image sensor (sensor 51 of fig 1), for reading said image being illuminated; a mask member, (negative mask member 88 of fig 4) secured to

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said photo film passageway, (as shown in fig 3 and 4), and on which said image is passed, see (col.16, lines 5-7); and a mask opening, (mask opening 88a, see ^{col 15 26-36} col.16, lines 24-26), formed in said mask member (88 of fig 4), for directing light from said light source (lamp 49 of fig 1), toward said photo film (film 2 of fig 1).

Hashizume et al., does not disclose wherein said mask opening is a mask slit extending in a width direction of said photo film, so that said mask slit is longer in said width direction of said photo film than a passing direction of said photo film.

Enomoto in the same area of photographic film processing apparatus discloses wherein said mask opening is a mask slit (a mask slit 52a of fig 6A) extending in a width direction of said photo film (film shown fig 3), so that said mask slit (52a of fig 6A) is longer in said width direction of said photo film than a passing direction of said photo film, see (col.14, lines 43-46).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the photographic film processing system of Hashizume et al. to include: a mask opening (slit) extending in a width direction of photo film.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the photographic film processing system of Hashizume et al. by the teaching of Enomoto because it would have allow users to defines the projected light from the film to have a specified narrow shape, on the position corresponding to the reading position.

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With respect to claim 3, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device (as shown in fig 1), wherein said mask member (31 of fig 18, as also shown in fig 3 and 4) is removably secured to said photo film passageway, see (col.16, lines 5-3).

With respect to claim 4, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device (as shown in fig 1), further comprising a photo film carrier (drive rollers 80a-80e of fig 3) having said photo film passageway, see (col.15, lines 40-45); wherein said photo film carrier includes a feed roller (drive rollers 80a-80e of fig 3) for conveying said photo film (2 of fig 1), in a longitudinal direction thereof, said image being read by said image sensor line (51 of fig 1) by line while said feed roller (drive rollers 80a-80e of fig 3) conveys said photo film (2 of fig 1).

With respect to claim 5, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device (as shown in fig 3), further comprising a protrusion portion (press roller 89a-89e of fig 3, has the same function of protrusion), see (col.15, lines 25-26), disposed on said mask member (31 of fig 18) to extend in said width direction of said photo film (2 of fig 1), provided with said mask slit (31a of fig 18) formed in a middle thereof for flexing said photo film (2 of fig 1) in said longitudinal direction to remove flexing in said width direction ("W" width of fig 18).

With respect to claim 6, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device (as shown in fig 1), wherein said photo film carrier (transport roller 80a-80e of fig 3) includes: a carrier base

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member (lower unit 8 of fig 3) disposed nearer to said light source, (light emitting 87a of fig 3) provided with said mask member (88 of fig 3) secured thereto, see col.26, lines 20-23), and having a carrier opening for introducing said light from said light source, see(col.26, lines 20-23); and a carrier cover member (upper unit 7 of fig 3, as a cover member) for covering said carrier base member (lower member of fig 3) at least partially, said photo film passageway being defined between said carrier cover member and said carrier base member, (when upper member or cover 7, and lower member 8, of fig 5, are closed each other photo film passageway is created, as shown in fig 3 and 4); further comprising a diffuse plate (99 of fig 36), secured to said carrier base member (on lower member 8 of fig 36), for diffusing said light directed from said light source (49 of fig 1) toward said mask member (88 of fig 3 and 4).

With respect to claim 7, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device (as shown in fig 1), further comprising a passage (U1-U2, film passageway as shown in fig 1), recess formed in said mask member (88 of fig 3), extended to said photo film passageway for guiding said photo film (drive rollers 80a-80e of fig 3).

With respect to claim 8, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device (as shown in fig 1), wherein said protrusion (press roller 89a-89e of fig 3) portion comprises a cylindrical ridge, see (col.15, lines 25-26).

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With respect to claim 9, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device (as shown in fig 1), further comprising a retainer member (lower member 8 of fig 3, as retainer mask member) for removably retaining said mask member (31 of fig 19) to said carrier base member (lower member 8 of fig 3).

With respect to claim 10, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device (as shown in fig 3), wherein said retainer member (95 of fig 3), is secured to one of said diffuse plate (99 of fig 36) or said carrier base member (member 8 of fig 4) and said mask member (88 of fig 3), for retention by magnetic attraction (retainer 95 of fig 3, could be a magnetic retainer to hold the upper and the lower member) of one portion of a remaining one of said diffuse plate or said carrier base member (8 of fig 3) and mask member (88 of fig 3).

With respect to claim 11, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device (as shown in fig 1), wherein said retainer member (lower unit 8 of fig 3) comprises a portion for effecting retention with a click.

With respect to claim 12, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device (as shown in fig 3 and 4), further comprising: at least one positioning hole (94b of fig 5) formed in one of said carrier base member (lower unit 8 of fig 3 or 5) or said diffuse plate(99 of fig 36) and said mask member (88 of fig 3 and 4); and at least one positioning pin (94a of fig 5), disposed to protrude

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from a remaining one of said carrier base member (lower member 8 of fig 5) or said diffuse plate and said mask member (88 of fig 3 and 4) fitted in said positioning hole (94b of fig 5) for positioning said mask member on said carrier base member or said diffuse plate (99 of fig 36).

With respect to claim 13, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device (as shown in fig 3 and 4), further comprising a retainer member for retaining said diffuse plate (99 of fig 36) removably to said carrier base member (lower unit 8 of fig 3).

With respect to claim 14, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device (as shown in fig 3 and 4), further comprising a fastening member for immovably fastening said diffuse plate (99 of fig 36) to said carrier base member (lower unit 8 of fig 3), said fastening member being separable by external operation, and allowing removal of said diffuse plate (99 of fig 36).

With respect to claim 15, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device (as shown in fig 4), wherein said light source (49 of fig 1) is disposed under said photo film passageway said diffuse plate (99 of fig 36) and said mask member (88 of fig 3) are disposed to define a predetermined space therebetween, and dust on said photo film (film 2 of fig 4) is dropped into said space.

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With respect to claim 16, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device(as shown in fig 1 or 3 or 4), wherein said photo film (film 2 of fig 1) is a selected one of at least first and second types, see (col.18, lines 55-57); said mask member (88 of fig 3, as first mask member) is a selected one of at least first and second mask members associated with respectively said first and second types, see (col.18, lines 55-58), and secured to said photo film passageway selectively (drive rollers 80a-80e of fig).

With respect to claim 17, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device (as shown in fig 1), wherein said first and second types have widths different from one another, see (col.16, lines 55-57), and said first and second types have said mask slit (mask opening 31a of fig 19) with a length different therebetween.

With respect to claim 20, Hashizuma et al. discloses an image reading device (scanner shown in fig 1), comprising: a photo film (2 of fig 1) passageway for guiding and passing developed photo film, see (col.15, lines 40-44); a light source (light source 49 of fig 1), for illuminating an image in said photo film (2 of fig 1) positioned in said photo film passageway (from U1-U2 of fig 1, see col.15, lines 40-45); an image sensor (sensor 51 of fig 1), for reading said image being illuminated; a mask member, (negative mask member 88 of fig 4) secured to said photo film passageway, (as shown in fig 3 and 4), and on which said image is passed, see (col.16, lines 5-7); and a mask opening, (mask opening 88a of fig 4, see col.16, lines 24-26),

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formed in said mask member (88 of fig 4), for directing light from said light source (49 of fig 1), toward said photo film (film 2 of fig 1); and a protrusion portion (press roller 89a-89e of fig 3), disposed on said mask member to extend in said width direction of said photo film, (film 2 of fig 1).

Hashizume et al., does not disclose wherein said mask opening is a mask slit extending in a width direction of said photo film, so that said mask slit is longer in said width direction of said photo film than a passing direction of said photo film.

Enomoto in the same area of photographic film processing apparatus discloses wherein said mask opening is a mask slit (a mask slit 52a of fig 6A) extending in a width direction of said photo film (film shown fig 3), so that said mask slit (52a of fig 6A) is longer in said width direction of said photo film than a passing direction of said photo film, see (col.14, lines 43-46).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the photographic film processing system of Hashizume et al. to include: a mask opening (slit) extending in a width direction of photo film.

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the photographic film processing system of Hashizume et al. by the teaching of Enomoto because it would have allow users to defines the projected light from the film to have a specified narrow shape, on the position corresponding to the reading position.

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With respect to claim 22, Hashizuma et al. discloses the image reading device (as shown in fig 1), wherein the mask member (31 of fig 18) transmits light to less than 50% of a frame of the photo film (2 of fig 1) at a time.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

With respect to claim 19, the prior art does not disclose or show a control unit for obtaining contrasts of said first and second auto focus charts according to said first and second pick-up information, for detecting abnormality in an orientation of said mask member on said carrier base member if said contrasts have a difference beyond a tolerable range with said pick-up lens set in-focus, and for generating an alarm signal.

With respect to claim 21, the prior art does not disclose or show a control unit for obtaining contrasts of said first and second auto focus charts according to said first and second pick-up information, for detecting abnormality in an orientation of said mask member if said contrasts have a difference beyond a tolerable range with said pick-up lens set in-focus.

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Objected Subject Matter

5. Claims 18, is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With respect to claim 18, the prior art does not disclose or show a control unit for obtaining contrasts of said first and second auto focus charts according to said first and second pick-up information, for detecting abnormality in an orientation of said mask member on said carrier base member if said contrasts have a difference beyond a tolerable range with said pick-up lens set in-focus, and for generating an alarm signal.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from Examiner should be directed to *Negussie Worku* whose telephone number is (703) 305 5441.

The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9 am - 6 pm if attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, ***Kimberly Williams***, can be reached on (703) 305-4863.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 306-5406, and any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



02/02/04

KAW Williams
KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER